

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22, 24-33, 35, and 37-39 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 4, 7, 17, 21, 26, 33, 35, and 37-38 amended and Claims 23, 34, and 36 canceled and Claim 39 added by the present amendment.

In the Official Action the title was objected to; Claims 7-9, 17, 26-28 and 37 were objected to; Claim 38 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c); Claims 21 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maekawa et al. (U.S. Patent 4,660,962); Claims 22, 24, 25, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa et al. in view of Ikegawa (U.S. Patent 5,124,757); Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa et al. in view of Kikui (U.S. Patent 5,606,399); Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa et al. in view of Kikui and Nimura et al. (U.S. Patent 5,233,398); Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa et al. in view of Kikui and Sato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017995); Claims 33 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0028093) in view of Maekawa et al.; Claims 1-20 were allowed; and Claims 23, 31 and 34 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 21 is amended to recite the allowable features of Claim 23. Claims 33 and 35 are amended to recite the allowable features of Claim 34. New Claim 39 corresponds to original Claim 31, albeit rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims are amended to correct the informalities noted in the Official Action and to maintain antecedent basis.

The specification and Claims 1, 4 and 21 are amended to correct a translation error.

Application No. 10/665,494
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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